

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE FROM THE HERBERT RIVER DISTRICT.

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It is to the kindness of Sir William Macleay that I am indebted for the pleasure of describing this new Water-Snake. The example described is in the collection of the Australian Museum, to which it was presented by Sir William, but I have also had the opportunity of examining two other specimens, forwarded at the same time, and now deposited in the Macleay Museum at the Sydney University; these three specimens were collected by Mr. J. A. Boyd of Ripple Creek, Herbert River, Queensland, and were originally exhibited as a new species of *Fordonia* at the Linnean Society's Meeting of March 27th, 1889.

PSEUDOFERANIA, *gen.nov.*

Differs from *Ferania* in having the scales in twenty-one rows, in having an extra shield on the head interposed between the posterior frontals, and in having two pre- and one post-oculars.

PSEUDOFERANIA MACLEAYI, *gen.et sp.nov.*

Scales in 21 series; abdominal plates 147; anal bifid; sub-caudal plates in two rows 38/38. Body stout, slightly compressed; head short, but little distinct from the neck; tail rather short, very much smaller and more strongly compressed than the body; muzzle short, broad, and truncate; eye small, situated on the upper angle of the head, the pupil vertical. Nostril on the upper surface of the head, in the centre of a large nasal, which is divided by a deep groove on its outer half, and forms a broad

suture with its fellow behind the rostral, which latter shield is twice as broad as high, and is rectangular posteriorly ; anterior frontals small, triangular ; posterior frontals much larger, separated the one from the other by an interposed shield, as large as one of the anterior frontals ; loreal large, twice the size of the same ; vertical pentagonal, acutely angular posteriorly, one-half longer than broad ; occipitals much longer than the vertical, more than twice as long as broad, and acutely rounded posteriorly ; one large supraciliary ; two pre- and one post-oculars ; temporals in three series, the first and third of the upper row being much larger than the others ; eight rather high and narrow upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the eye, the eighth small. Lead color above, yellowish-white below, both colors sharply defined ; many of the scales of the back and sides blackish forming six irregular longitudinal bands ; a broad lateral lead-colored band on either margin of the abdominal plates, and a narrower and more obscure median one, not reaching to the vent ; a broad median black band on the sub-caudals.